



Volume 2, Issue 4

October - December 2005

2005 is year for legislative wins and losses

Assembly Majority Leader Frommer's bills to improve rail safety and increase transparency in hospital prices signed into law.

Bill to improve rail safety signed into law

Assembly Bill 1067 significantly increases penalties for drivers who obstruct rail lines and cause damage or derailment to trains, or injuries to passengers and rail workers. The bill responds to the tragic Glendale Metrolink crash of January 2005, where a train collided with a sports utility vehicle parked atop the tracks and derailed, killing 11 and injuring nearly 200. After the January crash, Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer also requested that a special Assembly Committee on Rail Safety be created and was appointed chairman of that committee.

Hospital charging to become more transparent

Frommer successfully pushed legislation this year to help patients become smarter shoppers when it comes to hospital care. Assembly Bill 1045, which was signed into law, requires that hospitals make public the prices they charge for whole

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Frommer gives away 200 Thanksgiving dinners

Families in Glendale, Burbank, North Hollywood and Los Feliz participated in Annual Turkey Giveaway.

Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer handed out turkeys and all the fix-ins to 200 families in the 43rd District this year, making it a happy Thanksgiving for many.



In partnership with Ralphs, Costco, State Farm, SBC, Burbank Water and Power and the Glendale Police Officers Association, this year's turkey giveaway was more expansive than ever, giving always almost twice as many dinners as last year. ♦

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"OPERATION CHRISTMAS FOR THE TROOPS" SEEKS ASSEMBLY MAJORITY LEADER AS CHAIRMAN

In cooperation with the California National Guard and Yellow Ribbon America, Frommer served as a co-chairman of "Operation Christmas for the Troops" this year, a toy and DVD drive for troops overseas, as well as for the families they left behind here in California. Frommer secured a donation of 200 DVDs from Miramax for the drive and collected donations in his Capitol and District offices. The goal of the drive is to raise 100,000 toys. For more information, www.yellowribbonamerica.com.

procedures. That information will eventually be available on a state Web site so that patients can comparison shop online. In addition, it gives a patient a right to receive an estimate of the patient's expected cost of hospital care upon admittance.

Financial struggles eased for military families

Frommer's California Military Families Financial Relief Act of 2005 was also signed into law, legislation to alleviate the financial hardships often faced by families of the National Guard and Reserves who are called into active service. The bill waives certain fees, allow for tuition credits from community colleges for service members deployed mid-term and prohibits residential heating, electricity, water, trash and sewer service stoppages for the families of full-time active duty service members.

Governor breaks promise to California's kids

Governor Schwarzenegger broke a key campaign promise to kids in October, when he vetoed AB 772 and AB 1199 by Frommer and Assemblywoman Wilma Chan (D-Oakland). The bills would have created the California Healthy Kids Program to provide health insurance options to all children in California and would have set up the California Healthy Kids Fund, which would have accepted public and private donations and matching funds from the federal government to help fund health coverage for children.

Bills to lower cost of prescription drugs vetoed

Assembly Bill 76 would have allowed California to consolidate purchasing for state programs that need prescription drugs, allowing them to negotiate for lower drug prices by buying in bulk. The concept was endorsed by Governor Schwarzenegger's own California Performance Review and the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office, but the Governor vetoed the bill.

"It's disappointing that the Governor has chosen to reject one of the few ideas in the California Performance Review that would have actually saved critical taxpayer dollars," Frommer said.

Assembly Bill 73 would have provided information on a state Web site to consumers about international pharmacies that meet state standards for safety and accessibility that sell prescription drugs for 40% to 75% cheaper. Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed the bill in October.

Chance to fund higher education vetoed

Legislation pushed by Frommer and California State Treasurer Phil Angelides would have created a California Hope Endowment for higher education. The endowment, which would have been governed by a public board of appointees, would have operated like a charitable foundation. Part of the funding for the endowment would have been earned by shifting a portion of the real estate owned by the state government to Cal Hope Trust, a public trust corporation that would manage the real estate like a business and earn returns from it for the endowment. The bill was expected to raise an additional \$300 million for higher education, but the Governor vetoed the bill. ♦

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 4, 2006

Legislature reconvenes.

Thursday, January 5, 2006

Governor's State of the State Address

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